Should 'Press' Have Played?

'Writers' Batting Sticky Wicket

By ED SIMON
(Canadian Press Staff Writer)

LONDON (CP) — While England was losing the Ashes to Australia this winter, the most prominent team of cricketers on the English payroll were sitting in the press box pounding their typewriters.

On the field, England's worst weakness was a scarcity of opening batsmen, a fact duly recorded in London's Evening News by Sir Leonard Hutton, retired captain of the England cricket team and perhaps the greatest opening batsman of them all.

A press box roll-call could have produced 10 men—a full side except for a wicket-keeper—all former test cricketers and all working for London papers as reporters or commentators. Their experience ranges from Hutton's 79 tests to the 18 of Australian batsman Jack Fingleton.

The prevalence of guest experts on Britain's sports pages is beginning to perturb their full-time colleagues. The National Union of Journalists has opened discussions with the Newspaper Publishers Association in hopes of bringing the practice under control.

The NUJ's chief objection is directed against articles appearing under the bylines of prominent sports figures which are obviously ghost-written by newspaper men. More than half the "expert" commentaries from Australia come under this heading.

A policy statement, to be debated at the NUJ's annual meeting in April, declares that reporting and commenting on current sports events are "the exclusive function of bona fide journalists except where none is available," and condemns ghost-writing as "a deception of the public."

The statement demands that retired athletes be accepted as sports writers only "where there is evidence of bona fide training, preparation and work, or an intention to become a full-time journalist." It would also allow "professional assistance for instructional articles and reminiscences by sports figures."

The matter may come to a head before the English cricketers leave Australia. NUJ members working for The Daily Mail have given notice to their employers that they intend to refuse to handle any more copy from their guest columnist, Johnny Wardle.

The situation is novel for Wardle, who is not usually involved in controversies not of his own making. The wily Yorkshire spin bowler, who has taken 102 wickets for England, was dropped from this year's team when he burst into print last summer with several public statements on the shortcomings of the men who run Yorkshire's county side.

Wardle's deceptive left-handed bowling undoubtedly would have been a big help to England on the field. But nobody has ever offered any evidence that his left hand knows what his right hand is typing.

VIEWS of SPORT

By Red Smith

After the Santa Anita Handicap of 1952, Eddie Arcaro had a little dinner party in the Beverly Club in Beverly Hills. A couple of guests arriving late found themselves hips-deep in dressy little men. "Hey," a guy said, "this must be The Jockey Club that I'm always reading about."

After dinner some of Arcaro's party moved on to the Mocambo. One of the group was a particular friend of Eddie's and on the way to the club he talked about the rider. "I've been after him to retire," he told a visitor from the East. "He's 36, which is old enough in any sport, and he's got all the money and all the success he can use. I keep asking him, 'What do you want to do—break your neck? How about your family?' But I can't get anywhere with him."

"Look," the man said, "when we get to this joint I'll see that you and Eddie are seated togther. You bring up the matter of retiring, just casually. Maybe he'll listen."

It was so arranged, and during a lull in the show, the question was dropped idly: "Ever think about retiring, Eddie?"

"What!" Mr. Arcaro said, "retire? With the vegetables they got riding horses today?" That's approximately what he said, although "vegetables" is a complimentary term alongside the one he actually used to express a professional's estimate of some practitioners of his craft.

Whipping and Driving

So now all of a sudden it's seven years later. Thursday, Feb. 19, was George Edward Arcaro's 43rd birthday. Here he goes charging into his 44th year on horseback, whipping, driving, and winning. In January he had 34 winners, just one under the figure that made Bobby Ussery top man in the nation for the month.

Arcaro and Johnny Longden, Enos Slaughter, Jimmy Demaret, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, and Archie Moore—these are the thieves of time, the tyrants of the calendar. At an age when most men are addicted to carpet slipper and Serutan, these arrogant antiques go sashaying along at the head of the parade.

Because they are small men, jockeys are seldom included on any list of outstanding athletes, yet Eddie Arcaro is unquestionably one of the truly great athletes of our time. It's one thing to amble across a golf course beating a little white ball with a club; it is something else entirely to steer 1,000 pounds of brute strength through an opening on the rail at 30-odd miles an hour with your very life at stake in every stride.

Arcaro has been doing it for 29 years. He has ridden more than 4,200 winners, earning more than $25,000,000 "and," as Conn McCreary said one day when the photo showed three noses at the wire in a major stakes, "you know who's got the biggest nose.'

Oddly, it wasn't until the last three seasons, long after his friends had begun nagging him to retire, that Eddie started riding 200 winners a year. In 1956 when he had 205 winners he rode 1,041 races, the first time he had accepted more than 1,000 mounts since 1933 when he was 17. What was it that made him increase his work load when he was 40?

Saved His Energy

Maybe it's a superabundance of energy which he can't burn up at night or in the leisure hours he manages to give to an excellent game of golf. Maybe it is energy which others waste as kids; he saved his by quitting school at 13 and turning his back on children's games after the eighth grade.

At any rate, he is still the acknowledged boss of his field, the one whom other jockeys admire and respect above all others. In spite of his breezy bluntness that night in the Mocambo, he is a gracious sovereign, quick to recognize talent and generous in his praise of competence.

"Meet the new champ," he said a long time ago, introducing a bashful little kid named Willie Shoemaker. On other occasions he has appraised and analyzed and acknowledged fully the special talents of other riders, but he is a pro whose pure professional standards make it impossible for him to overlook the shortcomings of the "vegetables."

Maybe when as he counted the candles on the cake on Thursday he was reminded of how many years have passed since he was a hungry apprentice at Agua Caliente, one of a hungry, battling mob ready to hang one another on the fence or put an old guy clear into the infield, because one way to get the best mounts then was to get rid of the old guys.

Maybe he thought of these things, but probably not. Chances are he was in a hurry. He generally is.

RANDY DUNCAN
. . . heads west

Lions Snare Randy Duncan For Two Years at $35,000

VANCOUVER — Randy Duncan, highly-touted star quarterback of Iowa's Rose Bowl champions, finally made his decision yesterday and will line up with B.C. Lions of the Western Interprovincial Football Union this season.

Lions announced the signing of the 21-year-old passing whiz yesterday. His salary is an estimated $35,000 for two years. In making the announcement, the Lion brass pulled out all the stops for superlatives.

General-manager Herb Capozzi called it "the biggest acquisition ever made by Canadian football." President Harry Spring termed it "a definite indication that Canadian football has come of age as more and more American players realize the advantages of playing their football in Canada."

EVERYBODY'S PICK

Coach Wayne Robinson reported that in Duncan and holdover Al Dorow the Lions have "the two best quarterbacks in Canada."

Object of all the fuss is a six foot, 180-pounder who made almost everybody's first-string all-star team in the United States last season as he led Iowa to its second Big Ten conferences and Rose Bowl titles.

Duncan was first draft choice of Green Bay Packers of the National Football League, but for a long time was undecided whether to play pro football or continue studies for a law career. The Lions, gambling that he would decide on football, went to great length to buy his Canadian draft rights from Ottawa Rough Riders, then tried to out-negotiate the Packers.

However Duncan's father reported that money was not the deciding factor in his son's decision. "Randy felt he had a better future in Canadian football. He wants to play immediately, and in the NFL he would have to wait a few years before playing regularly."

Duncan's football career has been a series of record-breaking performances. He was understudy to Kenny Ploen (now with Winnipeg Blue Bombers) when Iowa won the Rose Bowl game in 1956. He took over the following season, set four Iowa passing marks, and broke three of them last season.

He holds the U.S. record of 1,406 yards total offence and his 249 yards gained passing in a single game was tops in the nation.

Duncan is currently serving a six-month Army hitch, and will join the Lions in training camp in July.

Totems, Cowichan Open Hoop Play

DUNCAN (Special) — Victoria High Totems, odds-on favorites to retain the title they won last year, have drawn the host Cowichan High club as their first opponents in the weekend Lower Island high school basketball tournament.

First round of the eight-team tourney starts tonight at 6, when Lake Cowichan plays Esquimalt Dockers. Belmont plays Chemainus, the mid-Island champions, at 7.15, and Oak Bay High meets Ladysmith at 8.30. The top-seeded Totems play Cowichan High at 9.45.

Second round is scheduled Saturday morning starting at 10.30, and the final round Saturday night at 6.30.

Top five teams advance to the Island playoffs in Victoria the following weekend, when they will join the top three clubs in the north Island tournament in the battle for berths in the B.C. playoffs in Vancouver.

Minor Soccer

Weekend schedule of the Lower Island Junior and Juvenile Soccer Association follows:

SATURDAY

10.30 a.m.—Division VII, Evening Optimists vs Central Comets, Beacon Hill Park; Lansdowne Hawks vs Gyros, Lansdowne Park; Reynolds Wolves vs Hampton Eagles, Reynolds Park.

10.30 a.m.—Division VI, Esquimalt Legion vs Evening Optimists, Bullen Park; Lansdowne Eagles vs Victoria Tire, Lansdowne Park; Post Office vs Oak Bay Optimists, Beacon Hill Park; Windsor vs Majestic Royals, Windsor Park.

1.30 p.m.—Division V, Hampton Eagles vs MacNutt's Grocery, Hampton Park; Optimists vs Reynolds Eagles, Windsor Park; Thistles vs Legion PE91, Lansdowne Park.

1.30 p.m.—Division IV, Britannia Legion vs ANAF Vets, Lansdowne Park.

1.30 p.m.—Division III, Central Flyers vs Colwood Pharmacy, Beacon Hill Park.

SUNDAY

2 p.m.—Division I, Eagles vs Optimists, Carnarvon Park.

1.30 p.m.—Division II, Vic Wests vs Heaneys, Windsor Park.

Caps Reach Bant Final

Capitals defeated Royals 7-2, yesterday at Memorial Arena in a sudden-death semi-final playoff in the bantam division of the Greater Victoria Minor Hockey Association.

Capitals now meet Maroons in a two-game, total-point series for the city championship.

Scorers:

Capitals—Dave Woodley 3, Wayne Anderson 2, Bill Reilly, Dave Cutler.

Royals—Bill Knezaky 2.

When to Fish or Hunt SOLUNAR TABLES by John Alden Knight

According to Solunar Tables calculated for this area, the best times for fishing and hunting for today and tomorrow will be as follows: (Times shown are Pacific Standard Time):

TODAY			
A.M.		P.M.	
Minor	Major	Minor	Major
2.55	9.10	3.25	9.40

TOMORROW			
3.50	10.05	4.20	10.30

Major solunar periods, lasting 1½ to 2 hours, dark type. Minor periods, shorter in duration, light type.

Remember When:

Maurice Richard returned to the Montreal Canadiens' lineup a year ago tonight, after being out of action for three months with a cut tendon, and scored two goals as Canadiens defeated Boston 4-0 at Montreal.

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'52 Mercury Sedan— Automatic, blue	$895
'52 Chevrolet Sedan— Blue	$695
'52 Pontiac De Luxe Sedan— Radio, green	$795
'52 Pontiac De Luxe Sedan— Automatic, radio, blue	$890
'51 Buick Special Sedan— Radio, green	$790
'51 Buick Special Sedan— Dynaflow, radio, blue	$895
'52 Dodge Sedan— Radio, grey	$695
'53 Dodge Sedan— Green	$795
'52 De Soto Sedan— Automatic, black	$775
'51 Pontiac Sedanette— Radio, blue	$695
'51 Chevrolet Tudor— Radio, green	$575
'49 Pontiac De Luxe Sedan— Green	$399
'50 Plymouth Tudor— Blue	$445
'47 Olds Sedan— Green	$199
'47 Olds Sedan— Blue	$245
'47 Ford Sedan— Black, top car	$295
'48 Dodge Sedan— Blue	$245

We need '53, '54 and '55 trades!

'53 Buick Sedan— Dynaflow, radio	$1090
'54 Buick Sedan— Dynaflow, radio	$1599
'55 Buick Hardtop— Dynaflow, power steering	$1999
'55 Pontiac Sedan— Radio, green	$1490
'55 Plymouth Savoy Sedan— Radio, blue	$1190
'56 Plymouth Sedan— Maroon	$1299
'56 Pontiac De Luxe Coupe— Automatic, radio, green	$1695
'56 Chevrolet Sedan— Turquoise	$1590
'53 Vauxhall Sedan— Blue	$799
'53 Zephyr Sedan— Blue	$995
'56 Vauxhall Sedan— Black	$1495
'58 Vauxhall Super Victor— Blue	$1745
'58 Buick 4-Door Hardtop— Dynaflow, radio	$3495
'58 Buick 2-Door Sedan— Dynaflow, radio	$3195
'57 Buick Sedan— Dynaflow, radio, power steering, brakes	$2995
'56 Buick Roadmaster Hardtop—Dynaflow, radio, power steering, brakes, windows	$2995
'57 Buick Roadmaster Hardtop—Dynaflow, radio, power steering, power windows, green	$3995
'55 Buick Century Hardtop— Dynaflow, yellow	$2295
'55 Buick 4-Door Hardtop— Dynaflow, radio, power steering, blue	$2295
'57 Plymouth Sedan— Two-tone green	$1995
'57 Dodge Hardtop— Automatic, radio	$2195
'56 Dodge Hardtop— Automatic, radio	$1795
'56 Monarch Sedan— Automatic, green	$2250
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